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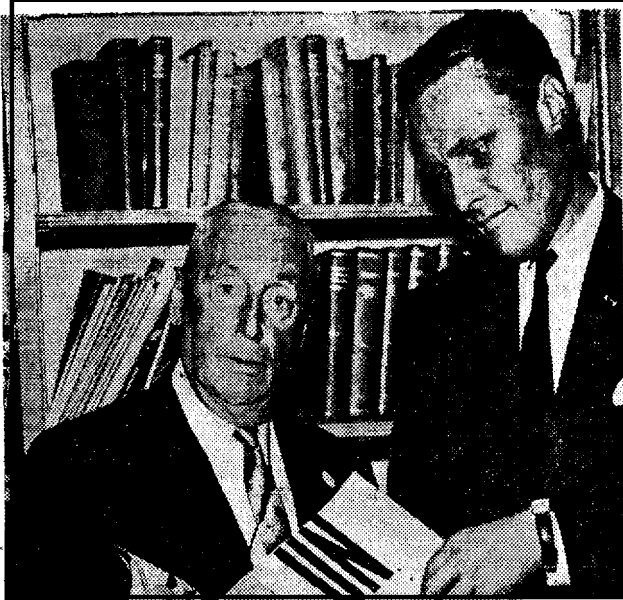
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William L. Oltmans, UN Correspondent for the Dutch news magazine Vrij Nederland, with Arthur Ostheimer (left), chairman of Temple Men's Club lecture series.

A United America Needed: Oltmans

America definitely needs to be united behind its leadership today, for a Western Europe is finished if America fails."

So spoke a Dutch-born correspondent, Willem L. Oltmans, who has covered a wide-ranging scope of events at the United Nations, India, Africa, Asia and at the recent uncommitted nations conference at Belgrade.

Soon to head again to the Far East for a six weeks assignment in Indonesia, Oltmans was here last night to open the 42d annual Temple Men's Club lecture series.

The tall, fair-haired correspondent who comes from a family of five generations born in Indonesia, told some 500 persons at the Jewish Temple that the American government lacks a co-ordinated foreign policy and that name calling in our election campaigns plays directly into Communist hands.

"America," he said, "needs to be united without a national calamity like Pearl Harbor or the brink of atomic war psychology."

"The only way Khrushchev has been able to get away with mul-

der is by confusing us," he declared.

Oltmans also termed the wall around Berlin and the explosion of a 50-megaton bomb by the Soviet Union as "silly" and "ridiculous."

He said that the 25 miles of concrete and barbed wire, augmented by armed patrols, that separates East Berlin from West Berlin is "one of the silliest things I ever saw."

"It isn't effective at all in keeping the East Berliners from sneaking over to the West," he said, "You can look over it."

Oltmans explained that he had visited Berlin right after the barrier had been erected.

"It's utterly silly and childish, and almost as silly as Khrushchev exploding a 50-megaton bomb."

"The Russians," he declared, "are making a very serious miscalculation."

Oltmans, who has rubbed elbows with practically all of the men who are making decisions today, said the bomb explosion by the Russians "is one of the most

ridiculous things they thought of since the revolt in Budapest."

When asked if he thought there would be a third World War, Oltmans replied: "That's a silly question."

But, he added rather quickly, that all it takes today is one idiot to do one unexpected thing for a war to break out.

Born in the Netherlands and educated at Yale, Oltmans has been covering the General Assemblies of the United Nations.

In commenting on the late Dag Hammarskjold, he said the Secretary-General of the United Nations was a man of high integrity.

To Americans he may have looked once in a while as though he were pro-Communist, but if there ever was a man who could walk the tight-rope between East and West successfully it was Hammarskjold, he said.

Traveling to Africa every year for the past several years, Oltmans stated the Congo is still a problem, and the secession of Katanga does pose a threat to a World War.

Speaking off the cuff, without benefit of notes, the journalist also lashed American newspapers for not presenting a true picture of world events.

He said our reports on Red China are "quite inaccurate." Everything seems to contradict what is actually going on there.

"Were you ever in Red China?" the reporter asked. "No," Oltmans replied. He explained that American reporters weren't doing it deliberately, but blamed the fact that they had to rely on others to get the news out of Peiping since no reporters from the United States are in China.

Cuba, he said, is another place where we don't know exactly what's going on because the Central Intelligence Agency didn't know itself. This was a reference to the abortive invasion of Cuba earlier this year.

"If the CIA can't get things straight, how can the papers get it straight?" he asked.